

INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Albania/USSR	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Soviet Minesweepers	DATE DISTR.	19 October 1955	25X1
		NO. OF PAGES	2	25X1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		25X1
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information		

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. The Soviet minesweepers [redacted] POLUKHIN class [redacted] arrived off the Albanian coast on the morning of 15 August and stood by in the area between Cape Pali and Cape Laghi until 1940 hours on 18 August when [redacted] entered the Port of Durres. 25X1
2. During the day of the 18th senior Albanian and Soviet Army and Navy officers were observed in the Port. When [redacted] moored these officers went aboard while material described as hose was loaded. During the loading operation the crew worked by searchlights mounted astern. 25X1
3. [redacted] appeared to be armed with five small caliber guns; two single mounts forward, one mount amidship abaft the bridge containing two single guns in elevated mounts, and one deck gun abaft the main mount facing aft. Two "verticle columns", one at either side of the stern. were noted. 25X1
4. At 2210 hours [redacted] departed Durres heading South [redacted] During the night of 18-19 August a floating target in Port was towed to sea. (The report does not state whether the minesweeper towed the target). During 19, 20, and 21 August the two minesweepers did not reenter the Port but remained off Durres. On the 19th and 20th gunfire was heard. It is believed the guns were fired seaward from the coast judging from the origin of the sound. On these two dates the minesweepers were escorted by aircraft. At 1330 hours on 27 August the minesweepers departed for the Black Sea. 25X1

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		ABC					
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").

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Comment: : It appears that the minesweepers proceeded up and down the Albanian coast several times to determine the existence of minefields. The "hose" embarked was probably nothing but minesweeping gear.

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Comment. Despite the absence of information on this point, both minesweepers must have been in the Port of Durres simultaneously at some time

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